

The Arlington Forester



Volume 53, Number 7

Arlington, VA

April 2012

Busy Agenda for April AFCA Meeting

by John Naland

Join us for the April AFCA meeting on Wednesday, April 18, at 7 PM in the Barrett School library. Scheduled guest speakers are our district's Senator Barbara Favola and Delegate Patrick Hope. They will update us on developments in Richmond impacting us (unless they are called away to actually be in Richmond that night to participate in the special session to finalize the Commonwealth budget).

We will also continue discussion of the Lubber Run Center site issue. As detailed on page 6 of this newsletter, the Arlington County School Board may announce on April 25 if they will ask the County Board to join them in building a dual-use educational and community center on the site of the current

Lubber Run Community Center.

At last month's AFCA meeting, participants approved a resolution opposing the construction of a 600-student elementary school on that site. Instead, the resolution called for a lower-impact option such as a neighborhood community center combined with an Arlington County teacher daycare facility and associated administrative offices.

A key issue that will hopefully be clarified at the April AFCA meeting is whether or not the County is likely to proceed with plans to replace the aging Lubber Run Community Center in 2015 if the School Board decides not to join with the County in building a dual-use facility on the site.

Spring Cleanup on April 28

by John Naland

Save the Date:
Saturday
April 28th
9-11 am

The second annual Arlington Forest Spring Cleanup is set for Saturday, April 28, from 9 to 11 AM. The map on Page 3 shows the four meeting points and their associated cleanup areas: Lubber Run Park, the 2nd St traffic circles, the buffer strip on the southside of Arlington Blvd,

and Four Mile Run near the foot of N. Granada. Depending on the site, we will pick up trash, remove debris and/or cut invasive plants.

At last year's inaugural event, 125 residents pitched in to help. To equal or surpass that turnout this year we need you! Even if you can only come for the first hour, please do so. Many hands make for light work, so the more volunteers who participate, the more progress can be made to improve community spaces for our spring, summer and fall enjoyment.

Please assemble at a designated meeting point at 9 AM,

rain or shine. If you arrive late, look around for those who are already at work. Please wear old clothes and sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. If you have them, wear garden or work gloves.

So, please join in this effort if you enjoy walking, jogging or biking in our neighborhood parks; if you have children

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AFCA Meeting 7 p.m. April 18 at Barrett School Library

THE ARLINGTON FORESTER

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Editor's Note

The *Arlington Forester* welcomes articles, news notes, letters and photos focusing on events or issues specific to our neighborhood. The next deadline is May 3 for the issue to be distributed May 12-13. E-mail submissions of 400 words or less to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org. Space fills up, so check with the editor in advance if you plan to submit a long article.

Amphitheater Photos

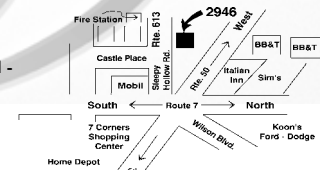


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Lubber Run Amphitheater's Full Season and Fresh Face

By Chris Scheer

The Lubber Run Amphitheater opens its first full season of free summer entertainment in three years on Friday, June 15 with the first of 23 shows scheduled to run through August 4.

In addition to traditional Friday and Saturday night performances, the schedule will include special weekday-night programs featuring community groups such as The Metropolitan Chorus and the Arlingtones. The Amphitheater, itself, will present a fresh face. New retaining walls and renovated dressing rooms will be ready for the June 15 premier performance. (See photos on page 2.)

Esther Bowring, co-president of the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation, updated County Board members on the amphitheater and thanked them for their support at last month's public hearing on the county's proposed annual budget.

Today, we are planning for a wonderful second season of live music and theater – and we are here to say thank you," she told Board members. "Although we had a shortened season last year of only nine performances, there was an outpouring of support, with more than 2,400 people who attended performances contributing about \$2,400 to the amphitheater wishing well."

Bowring noted that the renovated dressing rooms will enable schedulers to broaden the scope of programs at the

amphitheater. "We'll be hosting more dance and drama groups in the future," she said.

This summer's official schedule will be released in May, but those tentatively scheduled include Mary Ann Redmond (who opened last year's season), The Army Blues, Margot MacDonald, Cartoon Johnny, Robyn's Place and the Hexagon Theatre Company.

"The support of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association was instrumental in saving this neighborhood landmark," Bowring said. "And the patronage of Arlington Foresters made last year's short season a huge success. We hope to pay everyone back with interest this year with an outstanding season of free live entertainment in Arlington Forest's own backyard."

Next month's newsletter will print the full summer 2012 program schedule. You can also keep up with Lubber Run Amphitheater news on Facebook (search "Lubber Run") and email questions and comments to the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation at lubberrunamphitheater@gmail.com.

You can also make a tax-exempt donation to the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation with a check made out to the Arlington Community Foundation (specify the foundation on the check "for" line) addressed to 818 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22203.

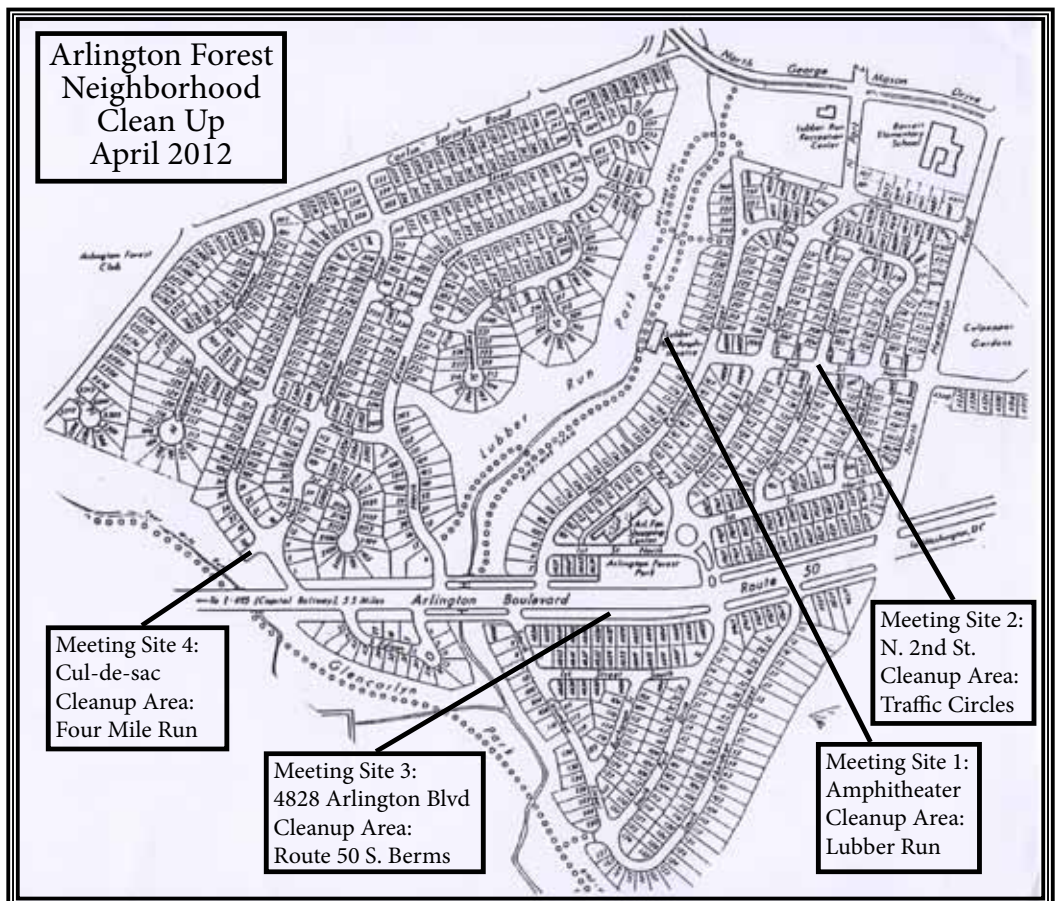
Spring Cleanup

...continued from page 1

who you want to learn to care about the environment; if you want to get out in the fresh spring air to benefit from some light exercise; and/or if you want to help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

No one stepped forward to coordinate the proposed cleanup sites along the Arlington Blvd northside buffer strip or Four Mile Run near the foot of S. Park Dr. Residents in those areas are welcome to cleanup those areas on their own and place any collected trash and recyclables in their own carts for regular weekly pickup.

If you have questions, e-mail John Naland at nalandfamily@yahoo.com



A Thank You Note

by Julie Kirchhoff,
AFCA President

Dear Arlington Foresters that attended the March 21st AFCA meeting,

Thank you for coming to the AFCA meeting on March 21st. I appreciate you taking time out of your busy lives to spend an hour together to discuss the things going on in our community of Arlington and our neighborhood, Arlington Forest. Hearing your thoughts and concerns is helpful and very much appreciated and I am grateful to have you - thoughtful, considerate and intelligent - as neighbors.

Thank you for participating.

Sincerely,
Julie Kirchhoff
President, AFCA



Earth Day
vs
April 22nd



Arlington Forest
Spring Cleanup April 28, 9 - 11 am



Yoga for Beginners

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Spring Cleaning by John Naland

Spring has sprung. As grass-cutting season resumes, this month's "Arlington Forest 101" column offers suggestions for other tasks to take care of around the yard.

The County requires residents to cut back trees, hedges, shrubs, and any other vegetation that encroach on sidewalks or streets and thus impair pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Now, as the growing season is getting started, is a good time to cut back vegetation that is already partially obstructing the sidewalk. It is also a good time to cut invasive vines off of trees and fences and to collect fallen limbs around the yard.

The County's spring yard waste collection runs through April 27. Yard waste (excluding grass clippings) placed in mulchable paper lawn bags (not plastic garbage sacks) is collected one day after the regular trash day. Paper lawn bags may be purchased at most hardware stores and are available for free at locations including the Thomas Jefferson Community Center.

What about those half-empty paint cans from recent painting projects or used lawn mower motor oil? If you missed the April 7 E-CARE event to drop off cans of paint, automotive fluids and other special items at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, those items can be dropped off six days a week at a collection point near S. Glebe and Route 1. Search "recycle" on the County website for details.

Has your County-provided trash bin seen better days? Bins with detached lids, broken wheels or large holes will be repaired or replaced by the County. It only takes a few seconds to request repair at <http://egov.arlingtonva.us/SolidWasteRequests/> or by calling 703-228-6570.

What about the street lights near your house? If one is burnt out, it just takes a few moments to report it. You only need know the address of the closest house to request repair on the website of the County's Department of Environmental Services or by calling 703-228-6570.

What about your sidewalk and street? To report a sidewalk that poses a tripping hazard or a street pothole, call 703-228-6570 or file a report on the Department of Environmental Services website.

Finally, now is the time to clean out closets, drawers and basements to gather old clothes, toys and other unneeded household goods to be donated to charity or to be sold at Arlington Forest's annual Community Yard Sale on May 19.

*To get on the Yard Sale map,
e-mail your address to
nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 3*



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Your Neighbor in Arlington Forest

If you are considering selling, please call me and let's arrange a time when we can discuss your future sale; there is no obligation. I want to show you how I market homes and help you determine what your selling price should be, and I have all the tools that Long and Foster has to offer. Don't wait too long to market your home as timing is very important. I look forward to meeting with you.

Jim

AFCA Resolution Concerning Lubber Run Recreation Center Site

Note: This message was e-mailed to members of the Arlington County Board and the Arlington Public School Board on March 22, 2012:

The Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) held its monthly membership meeting on March 21st with a larger-than-usual attendance with the sole purpose of discussing the APS proposed Concept on the Lubber Run Recreation Center land.

After an hour and a half of discussion and input from all areas of our neighborhood, we constructed a carefully-worded motion that passed almost unanimously. Out of the 47 in attendance, only 3 were opposed and none abstained.

Please find the final motion (at right), which will stand, on record, as the AFCA position on the APS proposed Concept.

AFCA is deeply concerned about this proposed Concept and has asked repeatedly to be involved in the discussions and development of the proposal. There are many ideas and inputs from the neighbors that are worthy of consideration and we hope to be included in the process moving forward.

Thank you,
Julie Kirchhoff, President
Allison Kennett, VP North Side
Tom Smialowicz, VP Greenbrier

Update on the Lubber Run School Proposal by Esther Bowring

One of the options being considered by the School Board to address school overcrowding is a new 600-student school combined with a recreation center, preschool and teacher daycare on the site of the Lubber Run Recreation Center. This new school could be part of an overall solution to provide capacity for an anticipated 7,000 additional students at all grade levels over the next 10 years. By June, the School Board will be making their budget recommendations about additions and new schools needed to accommodate the increasing enrollment.

On March 21, school staff held a work session for School Board members to present their recommendations to create new elementary school capacity in the next five years. School Board members directed staff to proceed with planning for "Option Set D" that would build a 16-classroom addition at Arlington Traditional, 12-class-

AFCA Resolution March 2012

The Arlington Forest Citizens Association (AFCA) is strongly opposed to the building of a six hundred-student school at the Lubber Run Recreation Center site because it will overwhelm the site and create significant issues with child safety, traffic, parking, pollution and the elimination of community green space. Moreover, the building of a six hundred-student school next to the existing Barrett Elementary School will result in dangerous traffic safety issues for existing students, new students and community residents.

The AFCA strongly urges Arlington County to limit development of the site to a lower-impact option designed and scaled consistent with the size of the site, such as a neighborhood community center, an Arlington County teacher daycare facility and associated administrative uses.

room additions at Ashlawn and McKinley, and two new elementary schools – a neighborhood school on the Williamsburg Middle School site and a choice school on the Carlin Springs Elementary/Kenmore Middle School site. This option would add 1,950 seats at a cost of \$125.2 million. The Board also directed staff to further investigate renovating Madison Recreation Center to add eight classrooms.

So what does this mean for the Lubber Run School proposal? We don't know yet. According to staff, the planning, design and construction of the Lubber Run School would take at least four years, so it was never a viable option as a short-term solution. They have estimated the maximum cost of the school portion of the project to be \$43.1 million, with \$3 million allocated to "structured parking."

Staff deferred consideration of what will be done to further increase capacity in years 2018 through 2022 until an April 25 work session. At that meeting, staff will recommend how they intend to add another 1,200 elementary school seats, 2,500 middle school seats and 1,500 high school seats.

To view the School Board presentations and see the concept plan for the proposed Lubber Run School, go to apsva.us/capacity.

What can you do? Please keep writing letters and emails to School Board staff, the School Board and County Board members to let them know what you think of the Lubber Run School proposal. You can also sign the petition opposing the school at tinyurl.com/lub2012. And, if you can, come to the April 25 work session at Kenmore at 7:30 p.m. to hear whether Lubber Run School will be selected as one of the future options.

Community Yard Sale on May 19

Arlington Forest's long-running annual Community Yard Sale takes place the morning of Saturday, May 19. With over 50 Arlington Forest households participating each year, the event attracts many bargain hunters drawn to the convenience of cruising through one concentrated area to visit many sales in a short time.

AFCA publicizes the event by placing classified ads in local newspapers. Sellers who live near Arlington Blvd, Carlin Springs Rd., George Mason Dr. and Henderson Dr. are encouraged to post signs along those thoroughfares pointing into the neighborhood and to their sales (please remove the signs at day's end).

Next month's newsletter will publish a map showing the sale sites. To get on the map, e-mail your address to nalandfamily@yahoo.com by May 3. Arlington Forest residents can use the map to locate nearby sales. Sellers are encouraged to make photocopies (or download copies from the online Arlington Forester at www.arlingtonforestva.org) to hand out so that once shoppers find one site they can pick up a map leading them to other sites.

There are no rules governing this community-wide event, but past experience suggests strategies for success:

--Prepare in advance. Sort clothes by size and toys by user age. Group similar items together. Find shopper-friendly ways to display your merchandise (tables, clothes rack). Have grocery sacks on hand. Accumulate dollar bills and coins to make change. If selling electronics, set up an extension cord to demonstrate that the item works.

--Price items reasonably. Savvy shoppers will buy elsewhere if prices are too high. Be prepared to negotiate down from the displayed price, but feel free to say "no" if you would rather return the item to storage or donate it to charity instead of feeling taken advantage of by a hard negotiator.

--If you want to snag professional buyers who make yard sales their business, start setting up at 7 AM. At the other end of the day, people looking for close-out prices and even freebies come out in the late morning and early after-

noon. If you are left with furniture or other large items that you simply want to get rid of, leave them at the curb with a "free" sign and they will probably be gone by Sunday.

--Keep your cash in a pocket, purse or fanny pack. If you do use a cash box, have someone assist you so it is not left unattended while you are distracted with a shopper. Decline personal checks. If you go indoors, have someone watch your merchandise.

For many people, yard sale success is not measured by profit, but by how much unwanted stuff is moved out instead of left cluttering rooms, basement or attic. The sale is also a great community event. Families can check out merchandise down the block, say hello to neighbors and strike their own bargains. Kids can set up a lemonade stand.

So, whether you are a seller, a buyer or both, please join us on May 19.



**Arlington
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Yard Sale
May 19th**

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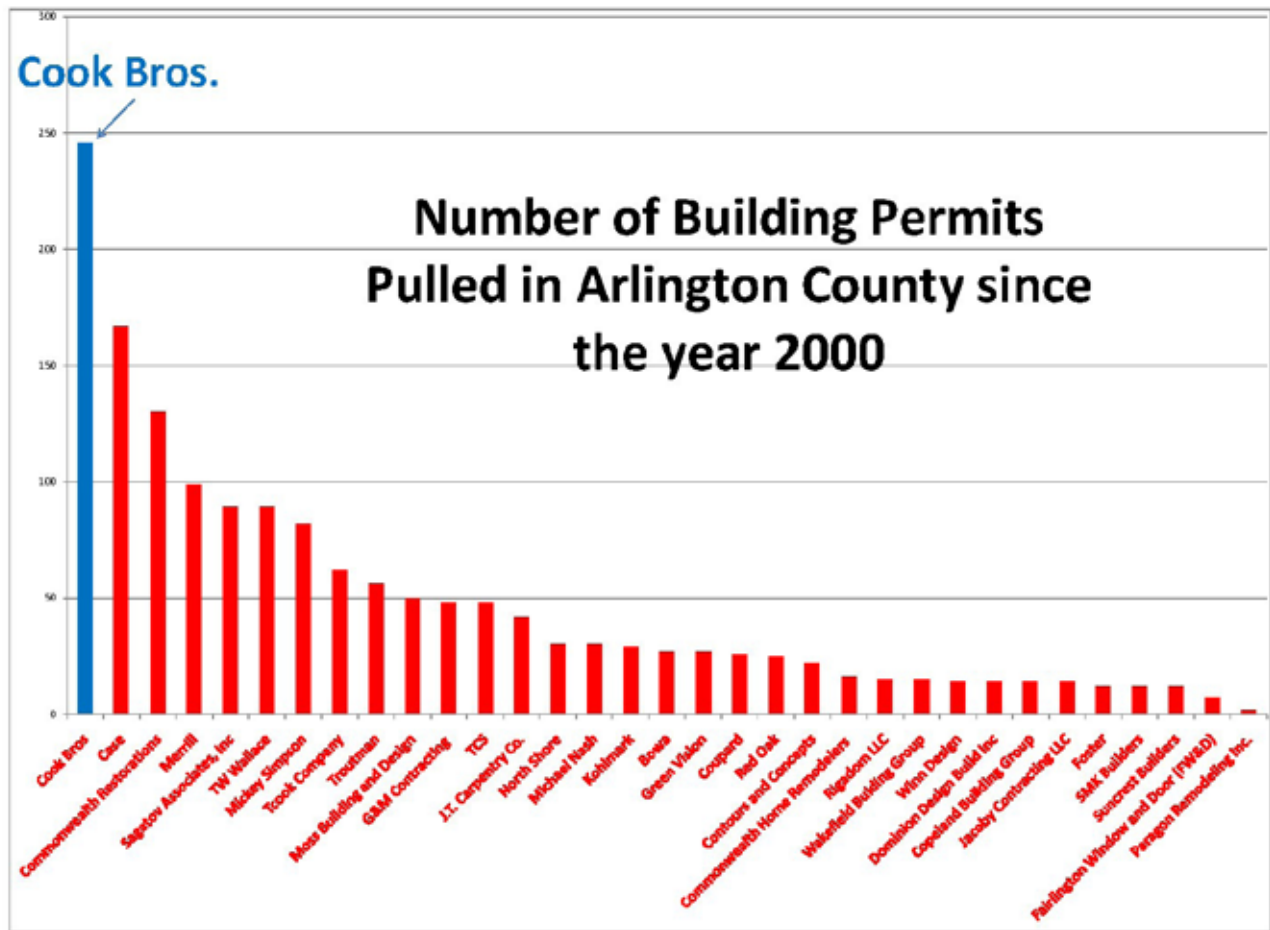
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www.CookBros.org/ArlForest



Around the Forest

Long Branch Nature

Center: Nature abounds at our nearby nature center during the spring. The center is open Saturdays, Noon to 5 PM, and Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Closed Sunday and Monday. Check the center's quarterly newsletter *The Snag* (on the County website) for a full listing of its many programs for children and adults. Below is info on two upcoming events:



-- Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, April 21, 2012, 1-3 PM, Join us for our native plant sale! The vast majority of our plants are propagated on site. There will be a variety of spring and summer bloomers along with ferns, vines and shrubs. Cardboard boxes will be provided for transporting your new purchases. Payment can be made by cash or check. Plant advice is free. Info: 703-228-6535.

-- Second Annual Turtle Trot 5K, Saturday, May 19, 10 AM in Bluemont Park. A 5K run/walk with proceeds going to support Long Branch Nature Center's veterinary services for injured turtles, medications, animal care, and educational programming. Adults: \$30, Kids: \$15. For info and registration, check the County website, e-mail ParkRangers@arlingtonva.us, or call 703-525-0168.

Pretty but Deadly: To the passing eye, English ivy seems like a lovely little green plant. But, it is actually a serious threat to the beautiful trees that give yards and neighborhoods shade and character. Ivy strangles trees. It can accelerate tree rot by holding moisture close to the tree bark, while also stealing the trees' nutrients and water. This aggressive little green plant can actually cause mature trees to fall down during storms by adding massive weight to overburdened branches. Ivy is a threat to our trees, but it is a beatable one. You can protect your trees by cutting ivy away from trees using these simple steps:

1. Use garden clippers to cut all ivy vines at the bottom around the entire tree trunk.
2. Create a cleared "life-saver ring" around the tree by pulling all ivy vines from the ground for at least two feet around the tree.
3. Leave the cut ivy vines on the tree. Pulling them off could harm the tree. The cut ivy will die back and blow away over the next year.

To learn more, go to www.TreeStewards.org.

Water New Trees: Please water your young trees. Moisture is becoming a scarcity. We have only seen about 65% of normal rainfall since the beginning of the year. Moreover, there has been no snowmelt to boost soil moisture this spring in most of the area and unseasonably high evaporation rates resulting from plants putting on new foliage and the drawdown in the limited soil moisture reserves. So, if it has not rained at least one inch in any given week, get out the hose and let it run for a several minutes around the young trees -- or purchase a gator bag or ooze tube and remember to fill it weekly. Young trees need one inch of rain a week for the first three years of life. What counts is not letting the soil around the roots turn into cement.

Walk for the Animals: The Animal Welfare League of Arlington's 17th annual Walk for the Animals fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 12 at 9:30 AM in Bluemont Park. For info and to register, go to awla.org.

AFCA Membership Drive: We are approaching the last call for \$10 AFCA dues for the Sept 2011 to Aug 2012 fiscal year. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so today using the coupon on this page. Your dues support AFCA's efforts to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Did You Know.....

- Arlington has over 113 miles of trails, bike lanes, and bike routes.
- 11 Metrorail stops are located in Arlington -- more than half of the 20 stops in all of Northern Virginia.

AFCA MEMBERSHIP DUES

ANNUAL DUES \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Deliver this form and your check for \$10 payable to "AFCA" to your respective AFCA section vice president.

Greenbrier: Tom Smialowicz, 26 N. Granada St. 22203

Northside: Allison Kennett, 139 N. Park Dr. 22203

Southside: Douglas Sims, 119 S. Columbus St. 22204

NAME: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CUT ME OUT >>>>

Community Calendar



Next AFCA Meeting: Wednesday, April 18, 7 PM, at Barrett School library.

Voting Dates: June 12 Primary and November 6 General Election.

Future AFCA Meeting: May 16 (annual picnic in Lubber Run Park).

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 28. Our second annual volunteer clean-up of public spaces around Arlington Forest.

Annual Community Yard Sale: Saturday, May 19. Turn unwanted stuff into cash.

Taste of Arlington: May 20 in front of Ballston Mall.

Ballston Arts & Crafts Market: Reopens May 12.

Ballston Farmers Market: Reopening in late-May.

Lubber Run Amphitheater: Live entertainment under the stars resumes on June 15.

Arlington County Fair: Carnival rides and good eats on August 8-12. See <http://arlingtoncountyfair.us/> for details.

Forest Exchange

Looking for Band Members: Arlington Forest teen musician would like to play with other teens, ages 13-16, such as electric bass guitarist, drummer, and/or acoustic/electric guitarist. Contact Stealers12@gmail.com, 703-243-8777.

Wanted-AFC Membership: If you're looking to pick up some cash, are planning to move out of the area, or are considering selling your under-utilized pool membership, please call me! We're still looking to buy! We're AF residents since 1998, now with small child, and are (still) seeking pool membership. If you find that you're not using it much or know a neighbor moving soon or wanting to drop their membership, please contact me by email or phone. Thanks for your consideration, Kathy, N Granada, 703-841-0494.

Wanted-AFC Membership: Friends of the Gibson-Mutty family are seeking an AFC membership since they are moving to Bluemont. If interested in selling a membership, please contact Bill Boswinkle at 571-224-2238.

Put Your Notice Here: Send your notice by May 3 to newsletter@arlingtonforestva.org.

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Remembering Jeff Lund

by Carol Patecell

I would like to add to the testimonial in last month's newsletter to the enormous positive impact that the late Jeff Lund had on our neighborhood. While he actually lived a mile away in Alcova Heights, chances are Jeff Lund knew the ins and outs of Lubber Run Park better than any Forester. His love of scouting and the outdoors were reflected in each of Troop 648's tree plantings, every retaining wall the troop put up, and all the trails the troop refurbished.

Long past when his son Jesse attained Eagle in 2000, Jeff remained active in Troop 648. After serving as scout master (1998–2002), he was Eagle coordinator, troop committee chairman, merit badge counselor, and unofficial troop historian. From the time Jeff first became involved with Troop 648 until his death in late February, the troop never had a bigger supporter or more devoted adult leader.

Over 20 years, Jeff helped guide over 30 Troop 648 scouts along the trail to Eagle. The number grows even larger if you add the many scouts from other Arlington troops who also turned to Jeff for support with their park projects. And he was the perfect mentor - an environmental geologist who was also an Arlington Tree Steward.

Jeff himself became an Eagle in the early 1960s in East Tennessee. For his project, he led a team that planted

saplings along the Tennessee River south of Knoxville. Years later he organized a Troop 648 camping trip to his boyhood home. In between swimming, tubing and hiking adventures, he took the boys through a chestnut research farm and a large sawmill where they worked on the Forestry merit badge.

Jeff was passionate about protecting the environment, and he encouraged scouts to plan projects that promoted native and reusable materials. For the Lubber Run projects, that meant using locally reclaimed timber, nuts, leaves, and shredded mulches.

Although Jeff will be sorely missed, Arlington Foresters will continue to benefit from his contributions for years to come both in the outstanding young men and adults he mentored in scouting and in the many acres of Lubber Run Park that he was so instrumental in preserving and enhancing.

Note: A Memorial Mass for Jeff Lund will be held on Friday April 27, at 4 PM at St. Thomas More Cathedral, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington.

Thanks for your business!

As a resident of Arlington Forest, I am proud to offer my exceptional service to my neighbors. If you, or someone you know, could use my help, please give me a call.

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Barcroft School News

Spring is blooming at Barcroft Elementary. The school will host a **Family Academic Night: Kids Economic Marketplace** on the evening of April 17 at 6:00 p.m. Families and neighbors are invited to attend. Kids play a fun game that teaches them how to create and follow a monthly budget. Barcroft will observe Professional Administrative Assistants' Week on April 23-27. Spring Picture and Class Portrait Day will be April 26.

What would May be without student testing? Students in Grades K-3 will receive Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening (PALS) testing. Second graders will also have additional reading tests. Virginia Standards of Learning testing will be held during the last half of May for Grades 3-5. Good luck, students!

Additional highlights for May include the annual **Spring Music Concert** on May 2. Join us to hear the 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, Spanish Chorus, the School Band and Orchestra. **Asian/Pacific American Heritage Read-In Day** will be held on May 4. The school invites our neighbors to volunteer that day to read stories to our language arts classes. To participate, contact Dora Sue Black at dorasue.black@apsva.us.

The PTA will observe **Teacher Appreciation Week** and **National Nurses Week** during May 7-11 with a variety of

events designed to thank our staff for all that they do for our children. On May 11, the Barcroft staff is scheduled to participate in the 3rd Annual Hoffman-Boston v. Barcroft Staff Basketball Game. Go Barcroft!

The **Rising Kindergarten Open House** will be held from 9:30 a.m.-noon on May 16. Our neighbors are welcome to join us for this informative school tour. On May 18, the PTA will host a **Family Fitness "Hoops Night"** from 7-8 p.m. with hula hoops and basketball activities for the whole family. Girls on the Run will run in the 5K on May 20. Good luck, ladies!

Highlights in June include the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration on June 1 from 6-8 p.m. All are welcome. And back by popular demand is the PTA's **Farm 2 Table Week** from June 3-9. All this week during lunchtime, students will have a chance to sample healthy foods prepared on-site by local chefs. More details to follow soon. Finally, on June 19 the school will wish our 5th Grade farewell and good luck during the **Graduation Ceremony**.

THE NEXT AFCA MEETING IS AT
BARRETT SCHOOL ON APR. 18

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Barrett School News

March was an exciting month, and many more wonderful events will be happening after spring break! On March 8, Barrett's Roving Readers celebrated **International Women's Day** (visit the Project Interaction Family Involvement blog to learn more at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/4193>). **Math Family Library Night** was extraordinary with many ThinkFun games and exciting prizes. The spring musical, "The Emperor's New Clothes," performed by the Barrett Chorus, showed off our multi-talented Barrett students. Congratulations **Barrett Chorus!** The **YES Club** raised money for Backpack Buddies, a program of the Arlington Food Assistance Center to provide food for homeless children on weekends.

In support of **Project Discovery**, one of Barrett's Exemplary Projects, all kindergarten through fifth grade classes have now celebrated the 109th birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System (<http://tinyurl.com/BarrettNature>).

Donations needed for **Used Book Sale** which will take place on Thursday, April 26, in conjunction with the Arts and Writer's Fair. In the box in the lobby, place donations of gently used books, videos, DVDs, CDs, board games, and puzzles that you have enjoyed but are ready to pass on. Each year, Barrett holds a Used Book Sale in the gym, selling donated items for 50 cents each. This popular activity typically raises approximately \$1,000 in just a few hours.

It is a very fun and busy night! Besides raising money for the PTA, the Used Book Sale is a wonderful opportunity for students, parents, and staff to purchase books at low costs. All community members are invited to donate and attend the sale!

Congratulations to all of the Barrett **Odyssey of the Mind** teams who participated in the regional tournament on Saturday, March 31. Seven teams represented Barrett: one first grade, one second grade, one third grade, two fourth grade, and two fifth grade. The kids all worked very hard. Thank you to all of the coaches, parents, and teachers who worked for several months to help the teams prepare for the competition!

Volunteers are needed for our Spring Garden Work Day on Friday, April 27.

Barrett's Upcoming Events:

- Family Library Night, Tuesday, April 17
- Early Release Day, Wednesday, April 18
- Barrett's 5K Race & Kid's Marathon Mile, Saturday, April 21
- Celebrate Poetry Week at Barrett, April 23-27
- Arts and Writer's Fair & Used Book Sale, April 26, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Spring Garden Work Day, Friday, April 27

DC-Area Housing Market Ranks Among Nation's Strongest; Housing Affordability At All-Time High

Metropolitan Regional Information Systems (MRIS) data shows the DC-area housing market improved over last year:

***Inventory is down more than 25%** (currently representing a three-month supply—*the lowest in seven years*)

***Purchase contracts are up 4.6%**

***Foreclosures are down 67.2%**

***Average price is up 1.4% overall**

*Arlington experienced an average price jump of 17.2% compared to January 2011

*A market forecast by real estate statistical analyst Veros suggests that the local market will grow at 2.9% in 2012, and places the **DC-area at #3 in its "Projected Five Strongest Markets."**

New Census Bureau data shows that Washington, DC ranks fourth on a list of most affluent cities. And, **ten of the richest counties in the US**, with highest median household income, are in the DC-region—five in Maryland and five in Virginia. Loudon (VA), Fairfax (VA) and Howard (MD) Counties come in first, second and third for the nation.

The National Association of Realtors (NAR) calculates that **housing affordability is at an all-time high**. Combining housing prices with household incomes and mortgage rates, the index shows *the typical family has twice the income needed to buy a median-priced home*.

Freddie Mac just released its weekly Primary Mortgage Market Survey, surveying mortgage rates near 60-year lows. Rates are 3.875% to 4.125% (30 year fixed conforming loans), helping to keep homebuyer affordability high.



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- Caroline Rogers, pet sitting, dog walking, carolinearogers@verizon.net, 703-892-0226
- Julia Rogers, babysitting (RC certified), juliaerogers23@gmail.com, 703-892-0226
- Jon Tiernan, mother's helper (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, yard work, jonny.boy4@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046
- Liz Tiernan, mother's helper (RC certified), dog walking, pet sitting, lizzytiernan@hotmail.com, 703-979-5046

Greenbrier Section:

- Zephren Collinson, babysitting (references), pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, tutoring, 703-528-3595
- Kate Felsenheld, pet sitting, dog walking, k.cliffhero@gmail.com, 703-276-9874
- Alex Hendel, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, tutoring, alexhendel@gmail.com, 703-763-0070
- Sarah Keyser, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, Stealers12@gmail.com, 703-243-8777
- Lucy Naland, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, LucyMNaland@gmail.com, 703-888-0125

- Alice Naland, babysitting (RC certified), pet sitting, dog walking, yard work, nalandfamily@yahoo.com, 703-888-0125

Northside:

- Sophia Constantine, pet sitting, dog walking, cpconstantine@comcast.net, 703-841-9229
- Sophie Frank, babysitting (RC certified), soccer training, tutoring, sophie.e.frank@gmail.com, 703-859-0722
- Fiona Hickey, babysitting (RC certified), 703-351-7013
- Sophie Hickey, babysitting, 703-351-7013
- Isaac Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Marika Mortimer-Lotke, babysitting (RC certified), 703-276-9046
- Bo Sampson, babysitting (RC certified), dog walking, tutoring, bo.i.samps@gmail.com, 703-447-7678
- Gabby Young, babysitting, mother's helper, pet sitting, dog walking, merrywesing@yahoo.com, 703-622-4229
- Chris Werbos, dog walking, pet sitting, yard work (can work with power tools), chris.werbos@gmail.com

All Neighborhoods:

- Zach Gasper, yard work (mowing/edging, drain installations, etc), zachary.gasper@gmail.com, 703-304-1159



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